

Message Text

PAGE 01 KABUL 08449 121215Z

20
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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P 121140Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6139
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S E C R E T KABUL 8449

E X D I S

LONDON FOR S/S PASS TO MR. SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AF, US
SUBJECT: US-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) KABUL 8294; (B) 239732

SUMMARY: DECEMBER 12 MEETING WITH NAIM HAS LAID TO REST
AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING THE MATTER OF POSSIBLE US INVOLVEMENT
IN THE MAIWANDWAL COUP ATTEMPT. AFGHAN MOTIVES IN RAISING THIS
ISSUE ARE NOT CLEAR, BUT THEY INCLUDE AN ATTEMPT TO INDICATE
THAT THE US WILL HAVE TO PROVE THAT OUR INTENTIONS TOWARD THE
DAOUD REGIME ARE FRIENDLY.

1. IN MY MEETING WITH NAIM DEC 12, I BEGAN BY SETTING FORTH
AS OUTLINED PARA 4, REF A MY REACTION TO THE "EVIDENCE" OF US
INVOLVEMENT IN THE MAIWANDWAL COUP ATTEMPT. NAIM RESPONDED BY
SAYING THAT AFGHANISTAN WANTS CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH
THE US AND THAT IT HAD BEEN IN THAT SPIRIT THAT HE HAD MADE
AVAILABLE TO ME THE DOCUMENTS AND TAPE. HE AGREED THAT THEY DID
NOT CONSTITUTE FIRST-HAND EVIDENCE, ADDING THAT THE ONLY PERSON
WHO MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED SUCH EVIDENCE, MAIWANDWAL HIMSELF, HAD
COMMITTED SUICIDE BEFORE TELLING HIS STORY. NAIM WENT ON TO SAY
THAT HE BELIEVES THAT AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH HAS
AN INTEREST IN DISTURBING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND AFGHANISTAN.
I CONCLUDED BY SAYING I WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT HE AGREED THERE

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WAS NO EVIDENCE OF US INVOLVEMENT IN MAIWANDWAL'S EFFORTS.

2. COMMENT: I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO BE CERTAIN THAT
THIS SPECIFIC INCIDENT IS NOW OVER, BUT MY GUESS IS THAT IT IS

AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. IT IS ALSO A LITTLE EARLY FOR ME TO
BE CERTAIN WHY WHAT IS CLEARLY NOT EVIDENCE WAS PUT TO ME. THE
REASONS GIVEN IN PARA 2, REF B, ARE ALL POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH I
WOULD LIST THEIR ORDER OF PROBABILITY FROM C TO B TO A. IN
ADDITION, THIS EPISODE GAVE THE GOA AN OPPORTUNITY TO MUDDY
THE WATERS BETWEEN US AND THE PAKISTANIS. I HAVE EVERY REASON TO
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT DAOUD AND NAIM ARE SINCERE IN WANTING TO
HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE US, ESPECIALLY OF COURSE WHEN IT
COMES TO MATTERS LIKE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND DIPLOMATIC ASSISTANCE
VIS-A-VIS PAKISTAN. A BY-PRODUCT OF THIS EXCHANGE WAS THE
OPPORTUNITY IT GAVE ME TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH NAIM.
ELIOT

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